

# Pete — a lesson in caring

By Paul N. Nunnery

The phrase "Children are our most valuable asset" often seems to be mere lip service, or at least limited to an idealized type of family — one including children who adapt well in school, follow all the rules, complete the educational process, and subsequently become gainfully employed.

The ideal family, alarmingly, is steadily declining as a proportion of our population. Children who do not fit neatly within the ideal picture face increasingly harsh treatment from a number of directions.

It is to this troubled world of children that the Baptist Children's Village is called.

Involved in the lives and families of more than 600 children yearly, the Village has daily opportunities to bring them direction, hope, and even life. Less publicized is the equal opportunity for children in its care to make lasting contributions to the Village's capacity to serve.

Such a person was "Pete." The impact of whose life represents a timeless lesson in caring for the Children's Village and for everyone to whom Village purposes are dear.

A few years ago, the Village was asked to take custodial responsibilities for a 14-year old Mississippi boy we shall call "Pete." Apparently, he had been abandoned by both

parents by age five, and reared by a step-mother, whose placement in a nursing home and financial problems prevented her from continuing responsibility for Pete.

He was described as a lonely youngster who did not relate well to his peers, of dull-normal intelligence, and like many Village young people, had virtually no self-image or feeling of worth. Five separate medical problems, each of a serious and frightening nature, were identified for the Village staff in his social and family study, complicated by major dental problems which needed immediate attention.

Prior to going to the Village, Pete

had, been accepted by and quickly dismissed from several foster homes, and that application for admission to two other group child care agencies had been rejected. When his application for admission to the Village was completed, he was living in a crisis intervention facility, facing dismissal within two weeks.

The social caseworker at the Village confirmed the physical and emotional handicaps facing Pete. He offered an exceptionally unattractive appearance. He wore spectacles with thick lenses; he walked with a halting gait, huge knots appeared at various points on the surface of his skin, and he was depressed and withdrawn during interviews. Village staffers wondered how well Pete would relate in the crowded conditions at the Village and how other children would react to his appearance and demeanor. Moreover, it was evident that Pete would require painful and expensive professional medical care which the Village could ill afford. Nevertheless, after prayerful consideration, the Village accepted custody of Pete.

Pete was a challenge to the Village staff from his first hour in residence. His dream to learn to swim was fulfilled by the director of recreation; he was able to play on a limited basis with other Village youths, and a maintenance supervisor aided his feeling of usefulness, allowing him to do light chores. And not only his houseparents, and social caseworker, but countless psychologists, psychotherapists, physicians, surgeons, and clinical personnel, all performed a team effort to bring some measure of normalcy to Pete's young life, for the first time.

Through especially the houseparents and the caseworker, dozens of Village friends came to know Pete, and his sense of worthwhileness was gradually restored — or more correctly — instilled. He was given a bicycle, which he cherished, and baseball equipment and other mementoes of the national pastime which represented almost a passion with him.

His peers learned to accept and respect him despite the abnormal amount of attention he received. And before the extent of his physical problems was known, he made a profession of faith and began to live a life of open allegiance to his Lord.

Meanwhile, Pete's physical condition steadily deteriorated at an alarming rate amid grievous pain and suffering. Following consultation by more than a half dozen physicians, he underwent surgery on four occasions, including chemotherapy followup. He lost all of his hair and frequently

became unable to walk without support. A Jackson surgeon immersed himself in Pete's case, donating time and expenses personally.

But the rapidly accelerating spread of tumors in the boy's body after each surgical procedure helped the doctor and caseworker decide that Pete's illness was, indeed, terminal, and the decision to spare Pete from further needless surgery was agreed upon, and Pete was told.

During each hospital confinement, staffers would stay constantly with Pete. Once, his housefather remained in his hospital room, day and night, for 10 days.

His caseworker brought Pete back together with his stepmother for a brief, happy reunion, and a step-sister grew closer to Pete.

At the height of his illness, Pete, remembered by Village staff and friends, enjoyed what he described as "the best Christmas of my life." Remarkably, the boys in his cottage supported him in a genuine Christmas celebration without resentment or jealousy.

Despite his unhappy background, despite constant and almost unbearable discomfort, pain, and suffering, and despite the bleakness of this 14-year old boy's future, he became an example of cheerfulness, optimism, and stability for staffers and children alike at the Village.

Slightly more than 11 months after Pete became a member of "Mississippi's Largest Family," and what he called his "best year," Pete died.

Hundreds came to call, dispatched messages and contributed to his memorial fund, even as they had prayed for Pete so earnestly.

The story is one of tragedy. However, those who know and understand campus life at the Village know that the attractive influence of this unattractive little boy is not dead. They know that the brightness and optimism of his personality is still infectious and has already communicated a believable message of hope to hundreds of other Village boys and girls.

Baptists of Mississippi, through their Children's Village, brought Pete direction, a new hope, and a new life, however abbreviated. More importantly, perhaps, to the Village future, and to eternity, is the fact that Pete exercised, forcefully, his opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the Village's capacity to serve, by returning an equal measure of love, the indelible influence of his life, and by teaching the staff and children the most effective lesson in caring to which we have ever been exposed.

Paul Nunnery is executive director, Baptist Children's Village.

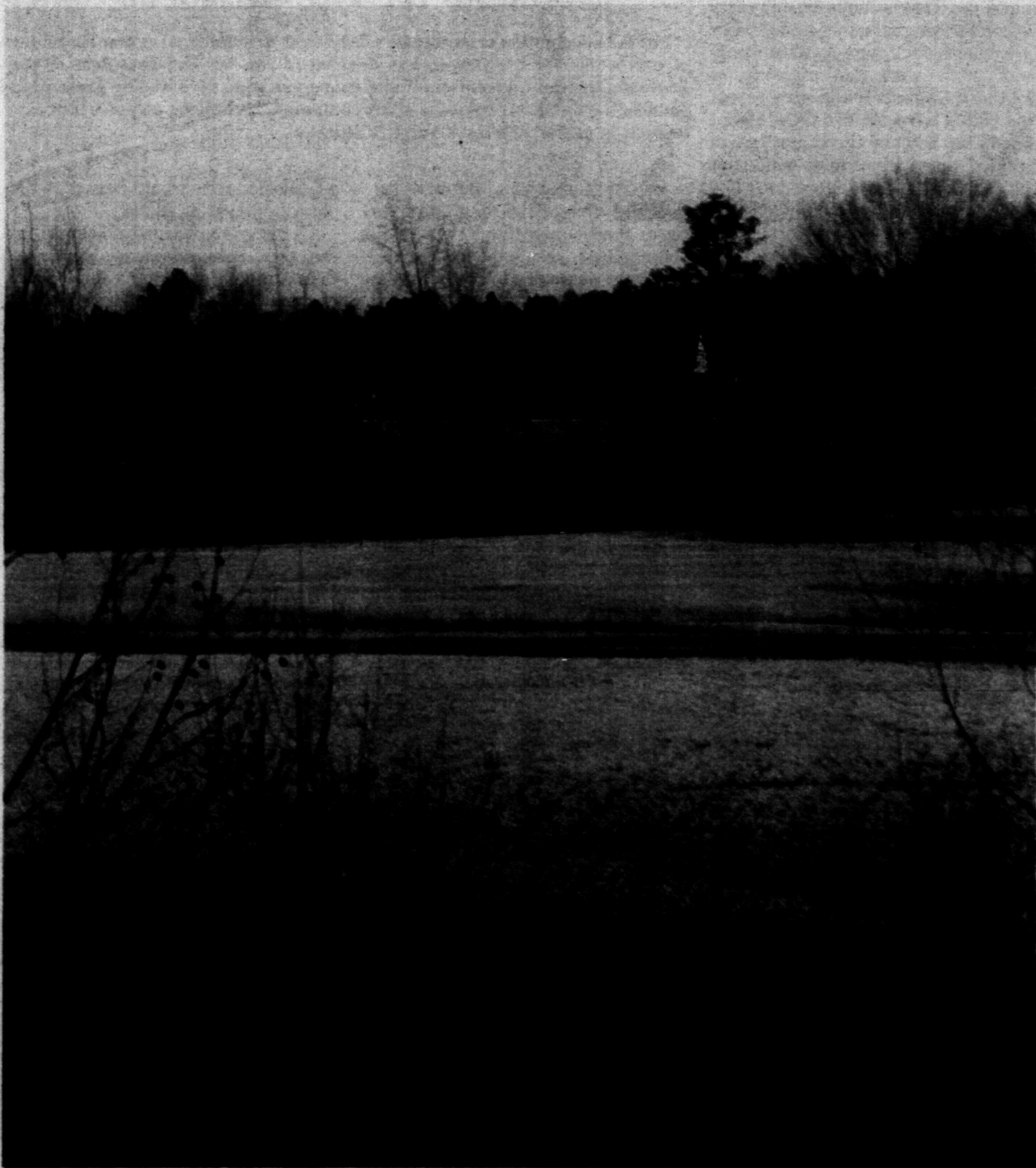
"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

## The Baptist Record

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### Line Creek Church

Line Creek Church in Scott Association is shown from Interstate 20. It sits between I-20 and Highway 80 almost on the line between Scott County and Rankin County. James Chandler is pastor. The Baptist Record plans to take pictures of attractive church settings from time to time and publish them in this fashion. (Photo by Don McGregor)

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee



# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Cooperative Program concepts

A central issue, if not the main issue, in the struggle going on among Southern Baptists at this time is the concept of the Cooperative Program.

The term, "negative designation," which means the ability to leave out of Cooperative Program funds coming from a church any Southern Baptist or state agency which the church would decide it didn't want to support, has come into play a great deal in recent weeks. It has become a sort of political football as one side of the controversy has said if the Cooperative Program is to be supported, the ability for "negative designation" had to be observed. The other side has said that if the practice of "negative designation" is observed, the Cooperative Program could be wrecked.

April 20 is Cooperative Program Day in the Southern Baptist Convention. Perhaps this would be a good time to give some attention to its well being and what any alterations might mean in its future. This is not intended to be political in any way.

First, let's look at what the Cooperative Program is. It is a concept that is approved by Baptists as they meet annually by which the many areas of work that Baptists support are financed. Actually, though it was voted into being in 1925, the Cooperative Program is approved every year. Every time the budget for the Southern Baptist Convention is approved, the Cooperative Program is verified.

As most Baptists know, but which some new readers may not have determined as yet, the procedure for

Cooperative Program giving begins with the individual. He makes his donation to his church in whatever amount he decides. In business meeting, then, the church decides how much of the total that has come from all of its members it is going to send on beyond its walls to be used in missions work in its own state and around the world. The state convention is the next step, and in a business session those bodies across the nation determine how much to keep in the state to fund the work there and how much is to be sent on for Southern Baptist causes.

At each stage it is the vote of the people that determines what is to be done. At the Southern Baptist Convention it is once again a vote that determines how the Cooperative Program income is to be handled. At the state conventions and at the Southern Baptist Convention it is the vote of the people present that decides what agencies are to be funded and how much they are to get. The proposal for such funding comes to the convention in the form of a well-structured recommendation in every case. Those who put the structure together, however, always spend a great many hours making it a reasonable and workable presentation. And the messengers to the convention are always at liberty to make changes.

And therein is the rest of the story. The Cooperative Program detractors are saying that they cannot support it unless they have the ability to leave out one or more of the agencies that it is funding.

In the first place, a church does not have to support the Cooperative Program to be a cooperating Southern Baptist church. There is not one word about the Cooperative Program in the convention constitution statement concerning membership. It talks about contributions to Southern Baptist causes, but it doesn't mention the Cooperative Program. So churches may already qualify for sending messengers by designating their

money any way they want to. To try to designate in some way that would allow a church to be considered as contributing to the Cooperative Program and still leave out one or more agencies is to fly in the face of what the messengers determine at the convention. So if a church wants to change its giving but also wants to remain supportive of the Cooperative Program, then its choice is to work to have concepts changed at the convention. It is a democratic operation, and such surely is possible.

As we approach Cooperative Program Day, however, let's examine this concept that has made Southern Baptists the fine missions supportive denomination that it is.

It is very likely that every Southern Baptist would make some sort of a change in the total concept of the Cooperative Program if he had the sole responsibility of determining its make up. That is done by majority vote, however, just as we make every other decision among Southern Baptists. It is what the majority of Southern Baptists who were present and voting have decided they think it should be. So once the majority has decided, our polity is to go with what the decision has been. If we don't like it, we can work to get it changed; but it takes a previously agreed on percentage of vote to get the job done.

By vote of the messengers, however, the Cooperative Program provides for all of the agreed on agencies in the several states and those affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention whatever amount of money is agreed on for the support of those agencies. The agencies don't have to send people across the convention to beg churches for money. Those contributions are worked out by vote of the people at the conventions.

It is really a very workable and practical concept. On this occasion of Cooperative Program Day in the churches, let's pause for a moment and give this program its due. It is the way by which we go into all the world

— as the Master has told us to do. Would "negative designations" harm the Cooperative Program? To some extent, yes; but the totality of the harm would depend on how many churches were to decide that they wanted to take such action. There would exist the possibility that because of the number of churches so choosing, the Cooperative Program could be wrecked. Then we would have given up our program of voluntary contributions to provide a witness for the world, and we would have to find some other system for financing missions work or just forget the idea of a cooperative effort and depend on the churches to provide financing. Without some sort of dependable estimate of income however, our missions work as we know it now indeed would be wreck-

ed. Missionaries would be sent to the church to beg for funds.

All things considered, it seems that the best solution is to leave the Cooperative Program as it is. If any changes are to be considered, let it be by a democratic vote at the convention.

## Shroud's images painted on, research shows

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. (EP) — Test results indicate that images on the Shroud of Turin were painted on, and not the result of energy released from Christ's body and spirit, as some believe.

Walter C. McCrone, who was one of a team of scientists who examined the shroud in 1978, said, "I believe the shroud was painted twice, once with iron earth and then with vermillion where the artist wanted a more intense color."

McCrone said he based his conclusion on an extensive analysis of fibers collected by pressing tape on the cloth. He said his analysis found iron oxide and vermillion on red fibers, and evidence of a gel that may have been used to bind the paint. He also said that blood on a similar cloth turned brown as it dried, while "blood spots" on the shroud look red.

The cloth, preserved in a Turin monastery, bears the front and back images of a crucified man. Some believe the shroud was Christ's burial cloth, and the image was made supernaturally during his resurrection.

McCrone's findings differ sharply from others on the research team who said there was no evidence the image had been painted on the cloth.



## Stubble for vice-president

For the information of our readers, Haywood N. Stubble, a regular character of cartoonist Joe McKeever, has decided to run for vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention. For the next few weeks we will be presenting some of the unfolding episodes of his campaign. McKeever, a syndicated cartoonist, is pastor of First Church, Columbus.

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515 Mississippi Street

P.O. Box 530

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Don McGregor	Editor
Tim Nicholas	Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams	Assistant Editor
Evelyn Keyes	Advertising Coordinator
Florence Larrimore	Editorial Assistant
Renee Walley	Circulation Assistant
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## Guest opinion . . .

## A half-way job

By Barney Walker, Sr.

Matthew 10:1 says, "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them POWER against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sicknesses and all manner of diseases."

Then in the same chapter in verses 7 and 8, "And as you go preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand,

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons, freely you have received freely give.'"

Why have we obeyed him in preaching and have not done the other things?

I am a minister, and I confess that

I have done a half-way job.

If I could live life over, I would study medicine as well as theology. Then when I visited the sick, I could also prescribe. The Lord will help us to do what he has called us to do. Notice in verse 1 he gave them power.

The matter is pressing today; for doctors do not make house calls, hospitals will not receive a patient unless he has the cash.

Consequently there are poor, aged, blind, halt, and maimed who are left out.

Some of these days God is going to raise up a crusader for the performance of the whole commandment. God will richly bless this person, and

those who are now left out will be ministered to by one with God's power.

Can any one imagine the crowds that would flock to a church where the minister preached the gospel from the pulpit and ministered to the poor and afflicted in the home?

We should remember that the Lord not only preached the word but he also healed all manner of sicknesses and diseases and never charged a penny.

"Freely have you received, freely give."

Barney Walker Sr is 91 years of age and has been preaching for 62 years. He lives in Jackson.



# Missions milestones focus of WMU session

ATLANTA (BP) — Celebrations of historic missions milestones will mark the 1986 Woman's Missionary Union national annual meeting June 8-9 in the Georgia World Congress Center, in Atlanta.

With the theme "What We Yet May Be," the meeting will focus on the future of missions in light of the past.

Various 100-year anniversaries will be featured, including the centennials of missions literature, missions work with children and Woman's Missionary Union itself.

WMU, the national missions education organizations for women, girls and preschoolers, was founded in May 1888. Plans for upcoming centennial celebrations will be revealed at the annual meeting.

Baptist children from Atlanta will perform a special Children's Centennial Pageant in a meeting session designed to feature missions education for children.

An exhibit commemorating the sesquicentennial of work in China by mis-

sionary pioneer J. Lewis Shuck will conclude the historic celebrations.

Dorothy Sample of Flint, Mich., will give her last address as national WMU president, and new officers will be elected during the annual meeting. Recording Secretary Betty Gilreath also will go out of office.

SBC Peace Committee member Christine Gregory will speak on "What Our Convention Yet May Be." Gregory is a former national WMU president and SBC vice president.

Other featured speakers include Paul Brand, chief of rehabilitation at the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, La., and David Barrett, missions researcher and editor of World Christian Encyclopedia, who will discuss strategies for reaching for Christ a rapidly changing world of the future.

Pre-session music will have an international flavor with performances by Chinese, Laotian and Romanian choirs. The Florida Baptist Singing Men and Women also will perform.



Good News, America—God loves you

"There was electricity in the air," said one member of First Church, Pascagoula, as she walked from her car to the tent. The occasion was a tent revival in the church parking lot in

April as the church participated in the simultaneous revival efforts known as Good News America. More photos on page 5. (Tim Nicholas photo)

## Mississippians preach Good News in Montana

By Roger S. Dorsett

"This was one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my ministry," Cliff Padgett of Laurel remarked. Cliff was part of the revival team assigned to First Baptist Church, Poplar, Montana for the Good News America Simultaneous Revivals. Other evangelists reported similar feelings.

A total of 55 Montana churches participated. Eighty-one evangelists, singers, and others traveled to Montana from Mississippi to conduct the meetings. There were approximately 70 professions of faith and an estimated total attendance of 10,000. Many rededications were reported.

Most of our churches in Montana continue to struggle. Financial assistance from the South and the Home Mission Board is absolutely essential.

However, there are signs of maturing growth. A new director of missions has been secured. Curtis Ellis has just

recently been assigned to work with Hi-Line and Triangle Associations. (Mississippian Dub Hughes has Yellowstone and Big Sky, and Mississippian Caley Nichols has Glacier and Treasure State.) James Nelson, formerly with the Home Mission Board, has recently been secured to serve as the director of the Montana Baptist Fellowship.

The revival teams for this project were enlisted by the following directors of missions: Maurice Flowers, Jones County; Marvin Cox, Union County; Walter Ballard and Eugene Walden of Tishomingo; Ervin Brown, Northwest; Don Wilson, Monroe; and Roger S. Dorsett.

Plans are now in the making for 1987 January Bible Study leaders to go latter part of January or first of February. Those interested, should contact, Jackson County Baptist Association, 769-7101.

Roger Dorsett is director of missions, Jackson County Association.

## Doctors will hear Myers

Lewis Myers, a Mississippian on the staff of the Foreign Mission Board, will be guest speaker for the fifth annual Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship meeting. Myers is director of the FMB's Cooperative Services, International, which

aims at placing volunteers in countries where no missionaries can presently serve.

The meeting takes place May 1, at First Church, Jackson with fellowship time at 6 p.m., and the supper meeting beginning at 6:30.

Dewey Dunn, president of the national organization, and Henry Love, director of the national group, will be on program as will Thomas Wiley, a Jackson physician and member of First Church, Jackson, who will lead the music.

The organization is planning a short term medical-dental effort in Tela, Honduras, in May or June. Those interested in participating should contact Terry Bailey at 153 E. Center, Canton, Miss., 39046, or home 859-1187.

For reservations to the supper meeting, write the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Cost is \$10 per person. A nursery is available. Students, interns, or residents are also invited.

# The Baptist Record

## Stanley appoints three SBC parliamentarians

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — Three parliamentarians, two of them former officers of the Southern Baptist Convention and the third a certified professional parliamentarian, have been named for the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC, scheduled June 10-12 in Atlanta.

SBC President Charles F. Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, announced the appointments April 8, naming James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church, Euless, Tex., and president of the SBC 1982-84; John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., and SBC first vice president 1982-84; and C. Barry McCarty, of Elizabeth City, N.C., a certified professional parliamentarian and ordained Church of Christ minister.

Although the SBC Constitution does not provide for a parliamentarian, previous presidents have appointed persons to assist in determining parliamentary procedure during the annual meetings.

The issue of the parliamentarian became controversial in the 14.4-million-member denomination during the 1985 annual meeting in Dallas, when Stanley, acting on the advice of parliamentarian Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcliff Church, Memphis, ruled out of order an effort to amend the nominations of the SBC Committee on Committees.

The ruling has resulted in twin lawsuits in federal and state courts in

Georgia and in a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee that Bylaw 16, which deals with the nominations process, be changed to specifically allow one-by-one challenges from the floor, while prohibiting the introduction of an alternate slate of nominees.

The lawsuits are pending and the SBC Committee on Order of Business has said the proposed changes in Bylaw 16 will be among the first items of business when the SBC meets in Atlanta. The recommendation will be considered prior to the nominations of the Committee on Committees.

Stanley said he appointed Draper because "I feel he did a fantastic job presiding at the annual meeting in the past." He noted Sullivan "ran against me" for president of the convention in

1984, and, as chairman of the SBC Executive Committee's Bylaws Workgroup "is probably as knowledgeable about the constitution and bylaws of the convention as anyone I know."

The president said he received a list of certified parliamentarians from the American Institute of Parliamentarians and selected McCarty from the list.

"He came to see me in Atlanta and we had a good long talk. After discussing his background, I was very pleased and think he will be an asset to us," Stanley said.

McCarty, a former vice president of the American Institute of Parliamentarians, is a professor of public speaking and debate at Roanoke Bible College in Elizabeth City, N.C. He is a (continued on page 4)

## Baptist Mission Board names 42 journeymen for 27 nations

RICHMOND, Va. — Southern Baptists commissioned 42 new journeymen April 4 for work in 27 countries during the next two years. Two are from Mississippi.

The journeymen, college graduates under 27 years old, will help career missionaries by working in youth evangelism, social and agricultural ministries and teaching and business positions. The Mississippians are

Robert Giannetta, Columbus, Hong Kong, and Debi Smith, Hattiesburg, Argentina.

The group represents the 23rd to be commissioned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board since the program started in 1965. They will travel overseas in a few weeks as the 1984 group completes service and returns to the United States.



# Court sidesteps resolution of 'equal access' dispute

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)—A closely-divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled March 25 that a Williamsport, Pa., school board member had no legal standing to challenge a federal district court decision which upheld high school students' right to gather in a public school classroom for Bible reading and prayer.

The high court's 5-4 ruling has the effect of reinstating the district panel's 1983 decision. That decision stated that the student group, Petros, has a constitutionally protected right of free speech to conduct their meetings. That right was equated with the rights of other extracurricular groups to meet.

The dispute dates to September 1981, when Petros—then led by senior Lisa Bender—asked the principal at Williamsport High to authorize its meetings during a twice-weekly, 30-minute period for meetings of extracurricular groups. While some of these groups were related to academic disciplines, others were not.

Although the principal granted permission for an initial meeting—attended by 45 students—he subsequently referred the matter to the superintendent of schools, who then sought legal advice from the school board attorney.

After the lawyer for the board issued a written opinion that in his view the practice violated the U.S. Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion, the students took the school board, the superintendent, and the principal to court.

Writing for the majority Justice John Paul Stevens—joined by Justice William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun, and Sandra Day O'Connor—held that Williamsport school board member John C. Youngman Jr. had no legal basis to appeal the district court decision after the board's eight other members decided not to appeal. Youngman took the case to the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which in July 1984 overturned the district court in a 2-1 decision.

Although attorneys for the student group did not challenge Youngman's legal ability to appeal, Stevens cited several previous Supreme Court rulings that the nation's high court has a constitutionally mandated duty to examine the standing of all parties to a dispute.

Youngman, Stevens wrote, had no standing to bring the appeal as an individual, a school board member or a parent. His claimed standing as an individual fell, Stevens said, because the original judgment of the district court was made, not against Youngman, but against the school board.

Nor was Youngman in a position to bring the appeal as a school board member, Stevens said, because he "has no personal stake in the outcome" of the case. Further, because he was the lone dissenter on the school board wanting to appeal the district court decision, he was not permitted to "step into the shoes of the board"

as a whole.

Stevens held further that Youngman could not bring a challenge to the district panel's ruling as the parent of a Williamsport High student because nothing which was in the record of the case before it was accepted for review by the Supreme Court last year indicated he was so basing his appeal. "Nor is anything in the record to indicate that he or his children have suffered any injury as a result of the District Court's judgment," Stevens wrote.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger dissented for himself and Justices Byron R. White and William H. Rehnquist, writing that while he agreed with the majority that Petros should be allowed to meet as decreed by the district court, he would have decided the case on its merits and reversed outright the appeals panel's judgment.

In a separate dissent, Justice Lewis

F. Powell Jr. wrote that he too would have decided the case on that basis, adding he based his views also on a 1981 Supreme Court decision—*Widmar v. Vincent*—upholding the right of student religious groups to hold meetings on campuses of state universities. Powell argued that besides applying that ruling to high school religious groups, the court could have cited other decisions upholding high school students' rights of free speech and association.

None of the justices on either side made reference to the Equal Access Act of 1984, in which Congress extended the court's reasoning in *Widmar* to high school groups. Legal challenges to that law was currently practiced are expected. A final resolution to the question of the constitutionality of the equal access concept presumably awaits such a dispute.

Stan Hastey writes for the Washington bureau of BP.

## Prospective students invited to special events at Carey

HATTIESBURG and GULFPORT, Miss.—Prospective Student Days are scheduled for William Carey College's Hattiesburg and Gulfport campuses in April.

A musical, "The True Story of Cinderella," will highlight the prospective student weekend on the Hattiesburg campus Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19. Housing and meals will be provided, along with entertainment by student groups, including social clubs and the student government association.

Persons interested in the Hattiesburg prospective student weekend can register between 9 and 10 a.m. on Friday, April 18.

Carey on the Coast has helped plan the First Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Biathlon and Beach Day and has included this event as part of its prospective student weekend. Potential students will register from 1:30 to 2:30 on Friday, April 25 and will have the opportunity to stay Friday night in the new campus apartments.

The biathlon will begin Saturday, April 26, at 8:00 a.m. at the pool on the Coast campus. A fun run for community participants and an awards ceremony will follow.

For more information about housing, registration, or activities, call (601) 582-6103 in Hattiesburg, or (601) 896-4455 in Gulfport.

## Stanley appoints three

(Continued from page 3)

graduate of Roanoke Bible College, Abilene (Texas) Christian University, and holds a doctorate in rhetoric and argumentation from the University of Pittsburgh.

He conducts seminars on convention parliamentary procedure for state and local governmental bodies, professional associations, and political action groups, and is a lecturer in a practicum on parliamentary law each summer at Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.

McCarty also is active in North Carolina politics and is one of two North Carolina members on the national Republican Party Committee on Permanent Organization. He was 1984 chairman of the North Carolina Republican Convention and a delegate to the 1984 national GOP convention in Dallas. He is active in Republican campaigns for congressional and senatorial candidates.

According to his biographical data sheet, McCarty also has been a "spokesman and lobbyist for state and national Right-to-Life groups."

McCarty, currently minister of the Jarvisburg, N.C., Church of Christ, has been at churches in Georgia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Virginia and has preached more than 100 revivals and Christian conferences throughout the United States and Canada.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

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## First, Greenwood will host drama-music conference

Curt Cloninger is the featured leader for the 1986 Church Drama and Church Music Conference. Cloninger,



an actor and author, will be featured in a creative worship service on Friday night, April 25.

The worship service, "A Call to Remembrance," will involve participants in an experience with Christ through music, prayer, and responsive reading. First Church, Greenwood, is the host church for the meeting, the purpose of which is to assist staff members, drama leaders, and young people in planning drama for worship and teaching.

The creative worship service will begin at 7 p.m. Friday with instruc-

tional classes beginning at 8:30 that evening.

Four classes will be offered: How to Use Drama in Worship Services, Acting, Puppetry, and Clowning.

The cost for the conference is \$7. Each participant will receive a continental breakfast, lunch, and practical resources.

Curt Cloninger has studied acting in Texas and California. He has acted in dinner theater, on national television, in regional repertory theater, and has performed a wide variety of styles, from classical to musical comedy.

Other leaders for the conference include Bruce Morgan, Mobile College; Betty Hutson, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; and Buddy Holland, First Church, Natchez.

Groups are invited to perform. For more information, please contact Robin D. Nichols, Church Training Department (968-3800).

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# Pastors' theme: 'Jesus . . . Author and Finisher'

ATLANTA (BP) — "Jesus . . . Author and Finisher" will be the theme of the 1986 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, June 8-9 in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

"God just put it on my heart for us to simply preach Jesus at this Pastors' Conference," said Morris Chapman, chairman of the annual gathering, one of the meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 10-12.

Chapman, a Mississippian and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., said he believes Southern Baptist "pastors have great needs and there is nothing more thrilling or inspiring than lifting up Jesus. I know Jesus is the answer to every need and I am just hoping it will be a time that our hearts as a people of God can be refreshed and renewed and revived."

He added: "I felt preachers today — individually, in their homes and in their churches — are facing crises and conflict in unparalleled proportions. My prayer is that this Pastors' Conference will be an opportunity for many pastors and their wives to reflect on the reality of just what Jesus can mean to them in what they

are facing in their lives and ministries."

The chairman said the meeting has been developed "as a high hour of inspiration. I have invited men who I believe have been faithful in preaching Jesus in a way that has resulted in scores of lives being changed."

He noted he has included missionaries and evangelists as well as lesser-known preachers to participate in the two-day meeting. The theme will begin with a message on the pre-existence of Christ and conclude with a sermon on the pre-eminence of Christ.

Preachers include Ed Young, a Mississippian and pastor of Second Church, Houston.

Music will be provided by Buster Pray, a Mississippian and minister of music at First Church of Wichita Falls.

Chapman said the speakers were selected because they are "powerful preachers. The program has no political implication. You cannot think of the Pastors' Conference without taking into account that it precedes the SBC. I have felt if we could have a high hour of inspiration, hopefully that will spill over into the convention."

## Messengers to consider 75% used for missions

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A move to channel 75 percent of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program allocation budget into mission causes promises to strengthen the denomination both externally and internally, convention leaders predict.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting this summer will vote on continuing to increase the percentage of the convention's budget that is allocated to missions.

They will consider a proposal to direct 66.86 percent (or \$90,931,400) of the 1986-87 Cooperative Program allocation budget to the convention's Foreign and Home Mission Boards. That amount reflects 69.88 percent of the SBC operating budgets, up from 69.64 the year before.

The mission-funding increase is a matter of "keeping faith" with Southern Baptists, says Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, which proposes the budget, "felt that if we were not faithful in designating more to missions, we would not be keeping faith with action taken at the 1983 con-

vention, which mandated increased giving to missions," he explains. "Now, as Southern Baptists give money in their churches, larger amounts will go to what Christ asked us to do in the Great Commission—go into the whole world and tell others about him."

"This move to 75 percent (for missions) will do a lot to encourage Southern Baptists to be supportive of our cooperative effort to reach this nation and the world," adds R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board. "I see it as an encouraging sign that will strengthen the whole approach to everything we're doing cooperatively, not just overseas but throughout the whole convention."

"It would be a dramatic increase in funding which would, of course, affect our ability to reach out to opportunities which now are far beyond our expectations" continues William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board president. "Every year we have from \$4 million to \$6 million in unfunded projects."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## Southern Seminary receives million

LOUISVILLE, KY. (BP) — Two donors who died recently in Florida and Missouri have provided more than \$1 million for the work of Southern Seminary here.

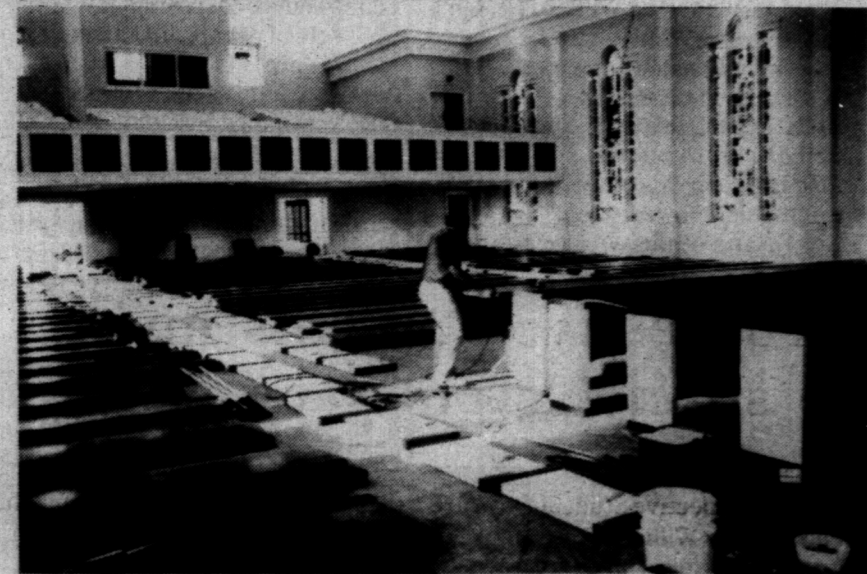
Irene Hale Skinner of Tampa, Fla., made a bequest of \$821,677 to Southern

Seminary, along with gifts to four other Baptist institutions.

A. P. Stone Jr. of Springfield, Mo., created a testamentary trust which will provide more than \$250,000 to enlarge a \$500,000 endowment he previously established.



Pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, Dennis Johnsey, preaches the revival under the tent. Mark and Susan Beaver of Atlanta, led music for the revival. Money which would have gone to an evangelist will go to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Beaver is a former staffer at the church.



The Pascagoula church used the tent revival time to renovate the sanctuary by putting in new carpet, painting and refinishing the pews. (Tim Nicholas photos)

## Registration opens for conferences at Gulfshore

Registration for summer conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly has been underway since March 1st and some conferences are at or near capacity. Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore, reports that space is still available for all types of conferences except Young Musicians, July 10-14.

"We encourage Mississippi churches to act quickly as out of state reservations will be accepted if space is available," said Simmons. "Gulfshore offers the local churches an excellent opportunity for training, fellowship, recreation and inspiration," he said.

Details about various programs have appeared in earlier issues of the Baptist Record and also may be obtained by contacting the sponsoring department at the Baptist Building.

Information about reservations may be obtained by contacting Gulfshore. Groups or persons wishing to make reservations should send the following information, along with reservation deposit of \$30 per person, age two and up: Name and date of conference, whether family, individual, or church group; number of males, females, couples; and children's names and ages.

## Rooms are still available for single adults at Gulfshore

Contrary to reports filled registration, there is still room for Single Adults to register for the annual retreat at Gulfshore May 16-18, according to J. Clark Hensley, single adult consultant and program director.

"The rumor about registration probably arose from the report that approximately 50 single adults from the Gulf Coast area will register this year as commuters," Hensley stated.

The program theme, "Back to Basics—Good News for Today's Singles," will feature Tim Cleary, single adult consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board at Nashville, and Reid Doster, counselor and often featured speaker for singles of Covington, La. The program begins Friday night at supper and closes Sunday noon. Registration may be made by sending \$30 with name and address to Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

## Good News, Pascagoula

(More information on page 3.)



Pete Stevens and Lewis Hartman, both employees at Ingalls Shipyard, help with the cooking of the catfish that was served on the final night of the revival service. (It was, indeed, Mississippi catfish).

## ABS offers King James in extra-large print

The American Bible Society, has just published the King James Version of the Bible in extra-large print for people with impaired vision.

Set in 18-point type, it is the only King James Bible for personal use with a typeface this large throughout the Scriptural text, which is also priced as low as \$10. It weighs just under four pounds.

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# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved until all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

## Horners return

Editor:

After almost 29 years in South Carolina in BSU work and in teaching, my wife, the former Eva Lois Davis, and I have returned to Mississippi, where she was born and reared and where I had the privilege of teaching at Mississippi College before World War II and of being state BSU director, 1946-1956, after the war.

It is good to be back "home" with dear friends like Chester Swor and many others. We are especially gratified that Mississippi BSU has progressed so well with Ralph Winders for 22 years and now Jerry Merriman leading.

And it is good to be back with my wife's brother and his wife and other relatives.

Charles W. Horner  
1140 Greymont  
Jackson 39202

## God's judgment

Editor:

Some pastors are preaching that AIDS is God's judgement on homosexuality. While I know of nothing good to say about homosexuality, I do know something good about God's judgement. He is a better marksman than people give him credit for. He does not aim at the guilty and hit the innocent.

Last year we buried a Godly young man — a hemophiliac — who had caught AIDS through a transfusion. Would anyone who knows God say the Lord was aiming at homosexuals and hit one of his faithful children by mistake? This all reminds me of a hurricane that tore up the Louisiana coast where I once pastored. A preacher called it the judgment of God on the various bars and taverns which were destroyed. I assume he thought God was also judging the churches and homes of good people that were likewise leveled. If so, God's marksmanship was a lot like the bombing of whole cities in wartime which destroyed both soldiers and civilians — men, women, and children.

Abraham said it well, "Would God destroy the righteous with the wicked?" And, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18) While he indeed judge sin, he is still the God of grace and mercy toward those who fear Him.

Joe N. McKeever, pastor  
First Church  
Columbus

## Divorced ministers

Editor:

I would like to say that I agree with the article written by the divorced minister in the March 20 issue.

I can't understand why we feel like a divorced man is unfit for certain jobs. When a man commits murder,

robs a store, rapes someone, or abuses a child and then finds the Lord, he's a new creature, God's forgiven him, and we forgive him. He goes on with his life—some even become evangelists, preachers, etc. But—DIVORCE—that's a different picture.

Why? Sin is sin. If God forgives, why can't we? Who are we to say that a divorced man is not called by God to preach the gospel. With all the divorced people we have in our society today, this is a much needed ministry. God may be trying to tell us something.

I hear there is a good seminary in Memphis, but they will not let a man that has been divorced attend there. I wonder if they let reformed criminals attend.

I've seen men that have been through unfortunate divorces but they have stood strong in their faith and dedication to God's work. The majority of them would make far better deacons and pastors than some who are serving churches now.

Let's quit nit-picking and try to work together and win the lost.

God bless the divorced minister for speaking up. I'm sure he is not alone. Maybe some others will voice their frustrations.

Name withheld by request

## Divorced ministers

Editor:

I have read with sadness two letters written by divorced ministers. I'm sure one of them was my pastor for many years. I do know he was able to get people to come to our church, and most were united with the church, who seldom ever went to any church at all. He was always out visiting and helping in any way he could.

I would hate to sit under the pastor who thought it best for him not to unite with his former church. It seems like this pastor must feel like Dr. Criswell said about the pastor ruling the church. Does this mean because a minister is divorced he must not attend church anymore?

I have a good friend from another state who said there were 15 ex-pastors' wives in the church choir where she attended. What about the ones in the congregation? Are they not to go to church anymore?

I know this minister would be an asset to any church. Could this pastor be a little jealous of the former pastor? It looks like that to me. I for one would be thrilled to have him as my pastor again. When some pastor friends asked this one to supply for them sometime when they were gone, why did they not follow up?

The Golden Rule certainly does not apply to all cases, does it?

Name withheld by request

## Thanks for story

Editor:

In a recent issue of the Baptist Record, you were kind and generous enough to put a war experience story on the front page.

As a result, I have received numerous responses. I appreciate so very much all of it.

Would you please find a spot in the

Record to express my thanks and love to all of you.

N. B. Saucier,  
Chaplain, Ret.  
Biloxi

## Thanks for help

Editor:

The Brotherhood of First Baptist Church, Pascagoula wishes to make special thanks to the disaster workers who helped senior citizens in debris clearing following Hurricane Elena last year.

Included as helpers were Robert E. King and Norman King of Raymond; Roy Jones and Andrew Polk of Columbia; Mack Davis, James W. McLeod, Otis B. Broome, and Smitty Bracy of Foxworth; several volunteers from Wade; and Jack Wood of Pascagoula. Bennie A. Rohr  
Brotherhood director  
First Church, Pascagoula

## Word of thanks

Editor:

The family of Jerry "Jay" Ray Grissett Jr., takes this means to express our sincere appreciation for the many expressions of love, prayerful support, and encouragement following Jay's accidental death on March 7, 1986.

Jay was returning from work in Jackson to Hattiesburg and was killed in an auto-truck accident on Highway 49 S. near Mendenhall, MS.

Positive response has come from the directors of missions and staffs, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff, pastors, churches and fellow Christians in Mississippi and other states, for which we are very grateful.

In behalf of Thelma, his mother; and Jayne and Michal, his sisters, this gratitude is expressed.

J. Ray Grissett, Sr.  
Associational administration  
Mississippi Baptist Convention board

## 100 years at Lumberton

Editor:

The 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church, Lumberton, will be celebrated July 20. Our committee is working diligently to obtain and compile information regarding the church's history. The following is a list of previous pastors:

Thomas Smith, Sidney Johnson, W. B. Holcomb, J. P. Culpepper, W. S. Allen, R. L. Sproles, R. D. Maum, R. L. Spencer, J. A. Lee, E. W. Garrett, J. N. Miller, E. E. Ballard, L. A. Materne, W. D. Wallace, J. R. Reedy, J. W. Wood, J. F. Brantley, Virgil Ratcliff, Paul H. Cranford, William H. Ross, Byron Malone, Carl Barnes, David Strebeck, David Young, Richard M. Cagle, and J. G. Winscott.

We are trying to contact all former pastors. If any family members of these ex-pastors have information we could use, we would truly appreciate hearing from them. The loan of any pictures, clippings, or memorabilia regarding the church would be treasured and returned in perfect condition after the centennial service.

History Committee  
First Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 406  
Lumberton, MS 39455

# Mission Action Explo: "pull together missions interests"

The title "Mission Action Explo" may indicate that the workshops to be held May 3 in 15 Mississippi locations could provide the "Explosion" that will blow away any obstacles to church missions.

According to organizers at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the general session and the workshop entitled "How to Conduct a Church Missions Program," will focus on ways to "pull together the various missions interests of the church into a comprehensive missions program."

Each location will offer the same core workshops: "How to Conduct a Church Missions Program," "How to Conduct Bible Study Outreaches," "How to Conduct Big A Clubs," "How to Conduct Special Volunteer Mission Projects," and "How to Conduct Interfaith Witness Blitz."

Other locations will offer a number of specialized workshops including

work in literacy, crisis ministries, jail chaplaincy, police chaplaincy, ministries at special events, discovering mission needs, resort ministries, deaf ministries, ministry to drug and alcohol abusers, ministries in multi-family housing units, starting new churches, ministering to offenders' families, and motel chaplaincy.

Each session begins at 8:45 a.m. and concludes at 12:30. The 15 locations are Main Street Church, Hattiesburg; Calvary Church, Tupelo; Sunshine Church, Pearl; and the First Baptist Churches of Gulfport, Newton, Louisville, Starkville, Calhoun City, Booneville, Senatobia, Cleveland, Greenwood, Clinton, Meadville, and Monticello.

For details on the specialized workshops, contact Paul Harrell, Marjean Patterson, Keith Wilkerson, or John McBride at the Convention Board in Jackson at 968-3800.

# Why did they choose MC?

CLINTON — Students entering Mississippi College this past fall selected the institution because of its academic reputation and Christian environment according to a report from a national survey recently released.

For the sixth consecutive year, Mississippi College, owned and operated by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, participated with the Cooperative Research Program of UCLA and the American Council on Education to study characteristics of students entering colleges nationwide. The latest study was for the fall of 1985.

Comparing Mississippi College students with freshmen on a national basis, it was found that 72 percent of those in this year's entering class considered academic reputation very important as compared to 55 percent nationwide.

Special "local option" questions, given only to Mississippi College students, tend to confirm the students' interest in academic quality, but with a significant difference. While a rating of "extremely high" or "higher than average" was given by 95 percent for the academic reputation of the institution, and 99 percent for the caliber of students, the most important single influence given for choosing Mississippi College was its Christian environment.

Mississippi College students showed a greater interest in religion than did students in the comparison groups, with 90 percent reporting that they were "born again" Christians. This compared with just 46 percent of the students at other Protestant colleges answering that they were "born again," while the percentage for national norms was only 24 percent.

# 1985 Lottie Moon Offering may fall \$3.6 million short

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists may fall as much as \$3.6 million short of the \$70 million goal they set for their 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

The projected shortfall reported by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials could be the biggest since 1982, when the offering fell almost \$4 million short of the goal.

The annual Lottie Moon offering supports a hefty portion of the work of more than 3,600. Southern Baptist foreign missionaries worldwide. The 1985 goal of \$70 million already has been budgeted to finance 43 percent of the Foreign Mission Board's \$162 million budget for 1986.

The size of the shortfall projection, based on a poll of selected state Baptist conventions, came as a surprise to Foreign Mission Board staffers.

"It was unexpected, to say the least," said Carl Johnson, vice president for finance. "There are several states that show actual decreases in giving. I don't have an answer why."

The 1984 offering of \$64.8 million totaled more than 98 percent of that year's goal of \$66 million. It represented almost a 12 percent increase over the previous year, three times the U.S. inflation rate in early 1985. The increase for the 1985 total offering, if the projection proves accurate, will reach only about 2.4 percent, below the current 3.2 percent inflation rate. An 8 percent increase was needed to meet the \$70 million goal.

Actual Lottie Moon receipts forwarded to Richmond, Va., at the end of March totaled about \$59.2 million, or 84.5 percent of the goal, with more money coming in from state conventions. The Foreign Mission Board calculates the final total May 31.

"There may be more money out there," Johnson said. "I'd like to miss this (projection) by a mile."

The projected shortfall won't cut personal missionary support but is sure to affect overseas capital budgets, which provide funds for missionary houses and cars, aid for church buildings, and other needs.



# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## Water in His name

"Well, Marjean, we finally made it to the mission field," That's what Sue Tatum said to Marjean Patterson when they went to Magura, Bangladesh, a few years ago. The missionary, Guinevere Young, told me later what she said. If a mission field is a place far removed from the opulence of western civilization, a place where people have little clothing to shield from the cold, and not enough food to stop the hunger pangs, then it is that.

Bangladesh, I've read many times, is the size of Arkansas. But more than 100,600,000 are squeezed into its territory. Of those, less than one percent claim to be Christians of any denomination. (It is chiefly Muslim, some Hindus, a few Buddhists.) Yet, because William Carey, pioneer missionary, once lived in the area now called Bangladesh, many villages and towns have Baptist churches.

Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh have done a lot of relief work after war and cyclones and tidal waves. Also they have and still do help in agricultural projects. But their focus now is on evangelism and church development. James Young, who lives at Magura, is Coordinator of Evangelism who keeps evangelism goals before the missionaries and who is liaison between the missionaries and the national convention. Also he preaches regularly in at least 20 preaching points. (E. R. Pinson told me Sunday that when he was pastor at Thomastown he ordained James' father, P. D. Young, as a deacon, and later ordained James as a preacher.)

With James and several others, I visited the little village of Hajrapur, where an indigenous church exists. In the small new white church building, paper chains had been strung as decorations for the forthcoming dedication service. Mats on the floor, and a pulpit, awaited the special day. I met the Bengali pastor's wife, who daily teaches Bible stories to the children. As few of them go to school (only 20 percent of the population can read, I understand), then they especially need this training.

"This is Jugal Das," James said. At the center of a cluster of bamboo houses, we found Jugal, a deacon in the Hajrapur Church. Since Jugal can read, he often represents the church as a speaker in associational meetings. (His father, over 80, is probably the oldest baptized believer in the village.) Jugal was making shallow bamboo baskets, for winnowing rice.

Since bamboo can grow four feet a day, it is used for many things, including cutting the cord when a baby is born. This process can cause tetanus, and makes the already high death rate among children even higher.

The new church was built with a 30-year loan, James said. A banana farm which members have planted near the building is helping to pay off the loan. World hunger funds from the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, helped to dig a pond near the church and

stock it with four kinds of fish.

As we were leaving the village, an old woman called to James to come and talk with her. She, too, was a Christian and knew him. Sitting on a mat outside a hut, she had been crying. Her problem was like those of many others the world over. (How alike people are everywhere!) "I am old and sick," she told him in Bengali. She had been staying with another of her children who had been keeping her and buying her medicine, but that one had brought her over to this child's house that day and left her without funds or medicine. James told her of a clinic where she could go and possibly find help. Before we left, he prayed with her. (Since then she has died.)

Bangladesh Baptist Mission has sunk 540 wells in the area around Magura, and James said they are going to dig one at Hajrapur.

First Baptist Church, Winona, Miss., sent special funds, he said, for sinking 26 wells. (Tom Thurman told me another day that Learned Church near Raymond had sent over \$5,000 for use in sinking tube wells and producing food in Bangladesh.) Jerry Mixon, pastor at Winona, told me last week that Linda Halfacre, of Winona and Mississippi State, will be working with a student mission team of 8 or 10 in Bangladesh May 10-31. They plan to lead revivals, sing, lead MK retreats, and do work projects in churches within a 30-mile radius of the church at Magura.

The Baptist Women's Society of the Magura Baptist Church was having a meeting in the afternoon, along with the missionary societies from two other Baptist churches. Mrs. Premlata Sarker, dressed in white sari (white signifies she is a widow), welcomed us and sang a solo. (Later, after refreshments, she sang a farewell song). The refreshments they served were a sweet rice (like rice pudding), popped rice (like rice crispies), and hot tea.

When they asked us to bring greetings, I took the liberty of saying, "I bring you greetings from the Bap-

Thursday, April 17, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Hajrapur Baptist Church, left, near Magura, Bangladesh, owns a banana tree farm that is helping to pay for the loan on its building. James Young, missionary, is pictured with the Hajrapur pastor's wife and several village children. Jugal Das,



deacon at Hajrapur, in photo at right, makes a bamboo basket, for winnowing rice. One of the girls behind him is chewing sugarcane. One of the village houses is in the background.



Women and children gather for a Baptist Women's Missionary Society meeting at Magura Church.

tist Women of Mississippi. We pray for you, and I hope you will pray for us." I hope that our Baptist Women — and men — will continue to pray for Bangladesh, for those Christians, with few material resources, who faithfully serve, and for the millions who have not yet heard the Good News.



Bengali children at Magura Baptist Church present bouquets to Anne McWilliams, center, Joan Peterson, left, Mildred Jenkins, right, and Pansy Rankin (not shown).

## Court throws challenge to Vatican

WASHINGTON (BP) — A federal appellate court has rejected arguments that President Reagan violated the U.S. Constitution by sending an ambassador to the Vatican two years ago.

In a unanimous decision, a three-judge panel of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia threw out a challenge to Reagan's action, ruling that Americans United for Separation of Church and State — along with 20 religious bodies and 83 individuals — had no legal standing to bring the lawsuit.



Men near Magura, Bangladesh, paid by the hour by the Bangladesh Baptist Mission (SBC), are sinking a tube well, which they can do in a day. "The tube" is a 1½ inch diameter galvanized pipe. A man climbs onto the bamboo scaffolding to pour water into the top of the pipe. The water overflows to fill the hole the pipe is in, and cut off the air. The man on the frame places his hand over the open end of the pipe. Others push down the lever to lift the pipe. They let go; the pipe hits bottom as the man on top moves his hand to let muddy earth spew out. A well can serve a maximum of 250. This one will probably serve at least 100.





Nan Grantham and elephant lead Music Makers.



Nearly 400 participated, from 16 churches.

## Gulf Coast, Jackson merge for children's choir fest

Churches of Gulf Coast and Jackson County Associations combined to sponsor a Children's Choir Festival, March 7 at First Church, Biloxi.

Leon Bedsole, coordinator of the event, reports that there were 16 churches participating with nearly 400 people present.

There were two divisions of the festival: The young musicians section was led by Talmadge Butler of the New Orleans Seminary music faculty. The music makers section was led by Nan Grantham of the music staff of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

The young musicians choirs participating were allowed to sing as individual choirs for adjudication. Talmadge Butler led the children in

mass rehearsal on two selections from the musical "Three Crosses in Jerusalem." At the same time Nan Grantham was leading Music Makers in songs and music activities. Choir workers sat in as observers.

Coordinator of the Music Makers section was Pam Meadows, graded choir coordinator and music secretary at First Church, Biloxi, assisted by Eddie Prosser of Pascagoula. The two divisions combined for the final worship time in the church sanctuary.

The festival was planned by the ministers of music association of the Gulf Coast. Chris Jenkins of First Church, Gautier, is president.

## Youth choir festival held

Churches of the Gulf Coast and Jackson County Associations combined to sponsor the third annual Youth Choir Festival Feb. 7-8, at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian. George Beck, coordinator of the event, reports that there were 13 churches participating, with almost 300 people present.

Lynn Madden, minister of music at Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, was the clinician for the event. Martha Frances Dugger, organist at First Church, Gulfport, was accompanist.

During the overnight festival, two talent revues were held with young people from the various churches

presenting varied talents. Dennis Ray Smith, minister of youth at First Church, Pascagoula, led in the worship times.

## April is Life Commitment Month

The 1986 theme for the Southern Baptist emphasis in April of Life Commitment Month is "God's Call: My Ministry." And Church Vocations Sunday is April 27.

Published materials note that the emphasis is to remind people "that life is a stewardship and should be given without reservation to Christian ministry, including work."

## Devotional

# When life turns sour

By Dean Register

Life can turn sour for any of us. Most of us have experienced the agony of watching sweet dreams fade into bitter failure. We have felt the shattering defeat from thwarted plans which never materialized quite like we wanted.

The question we face is not whether anything has ever gone sour, but what do we do when life does turn sour. It's one thing to face the question in an academic way, but quite another to practically experience it. How do we respond when everything takes on the color of gray and people seem distant and hopes flicker against the winds of despair? What do we do when normal daily routines become mountainous habits of drudgery? When work lacks spontaneity? When the family cohesiveness comes unglued so that smiles and laughter hide behind the masks of melancholy?

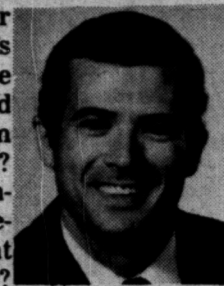
For 38 years, there was a man who tasted the bitter dregs of incapacitation. Sour sunrises and sour sunsets made a bleak life. The aspiring moments of his existence came during the festival season when he would wait beside a spring-fed pool for a bubbling of the spring which seemed to carry a therapeutic remedy much like a modern whirlpool. Thirty-eight years was a long time for life to be sour. So long that hope could wear thin and pessimism could stifle the will to try.

One day he lay beside the pool and waited. He watched eagerly. Anxiously he looked for the stirring of the waters as he had done so many times before. A gentle voice startled him. "Do you want to be whole?" Jesus asked (John 5:6).

Suddenly a life soured by suffering faced the possibility of wholeness. A poignant question went straight to the target. Would the man remain a sour suffering invalid or would he take the risk and accept the change? Believing Jesus' command to rise and walk, he was healed immediately.

Sour experiences can turn us into cantankerous people. Bitterness can change our flavor for life. Yet Jesus continues to beckon us to come unto him with all our hurts in order to make us complete and useful again. But he leaves the answering of the question to each of us: Do you want to be whole? Will you release the sour in exchange for the sweet?

Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.



Register

## Churches adopt 1988 annuity plan

Churches that have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the March 6 issue of The Baptist Record:

Morgantown, (Adams-Union); Calvary, (Alcorn); Pace, (Bolivar); Rocky Mount, (Calhoun); Scotland, (Carroll-Montgomery);

FBC Quitman, (Clarke); West End, (Clay); Strong Hope, (Copiah); Holcomb, (Grenada); Parkhill, (Hinds-Madison); Pocahtontas, (Hinds-Madison); Fellowship, (Jasper);

Shiloh, (Lafayette); Bethel, (Lawrence); Bethel, (Leake); Corinth, (Leake); Wiggins, (Leake); Grace Memorial, (Lee); FBC Amory, (Monroe);

Southside, (Monroe); Highland, (Northwest); South McComb, (Pike); Rolling Creek, (Quitman); Macedonia, (Simpson); Lexie, (Walshall).

## More boats possible

TIBERIAS, Israel (EP) — Wooden remains found near the 2,000-year-old boat being excavated on the Sea of Galilee shore raised archaeologists' hopes that more boats may be discovered.

## Central Hills Retreat releases summer schedule

The capacity at Central Hills Baptist Retreat has increased from 110 to 160 campers this year, according to camp manager Dan West.

Camps are established for two age groups: boys in grades 4-12, and boys in grades 1-3 along with their fathers.

The resident camps for the older boys will take place in nine sessions: June 2-6; June 9-13; June 16-20; June 23-27; June 30-July 4; July 7-11; July 14-18; July 21-25; and July 28-Aug. 1. Cost of the resident camps is \$55.

The Lad/Dad Weekends for the younger group will be June 13-14; June 27-28; and July 18-19. Cost will be \$15 per person.

Registration forms are available

## Prisoners will be commissioned

For two weeks, selected inmates from the Mississippi Department of Corrections have served in the Jackson area repairing homes while being hosted by Christian families, and ministered to by local churches.

A dedication and affirmation service will take place April 20 at 3 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church on West Capitol Street. For details, contact George Porter, in Jackson at 956-4851. The program is a ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries.

The service on April 20 will be a commissioning service for the inmates who worked in the community project—commissioning them to minister as Christians after they get back out into the world. Also the service has been planned as "a time to say thank you to the men who did the work, and to the families who hosted them."



## 1st, Brookhaven honors pastor

Robert Self, right, was honored recently by First Church, Brookhaven, with Pastor Appreciation Day, to celebrate his fifth anniversary as pastor. A banquet featured a "This Is Your Life" roast. More than 500 attended. The pastor was presented a love gift from the congregation. Chid Lofton, left, Chairman of the Personnel Committee who also served as Chairman of the Pastor Search Committee five years ago, made the presentation. On Sunday following the banquet, 917 were present in Sunday School. The Selfs are the parents of Mrs. Angie Wray of Batesville, Todd at Mississippi College, and Jon Mark. They have a granddaughter, Sara Ellen.

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# Revivals:



GOOD NEWS AMERICA,  
GOD LOVES YOU

**Friendship, Grenada:** April 20-25; 7 p.m. each evening; Bob Wiggins, full time evangelist, Memphis, evangelist; Jay Gore, First, Searcy, Ark., music evangelist; Ronnie Mitchell, pastor.

**Valley Hill, Greenwood:** April 20-25; Sun., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 each evening; Gary Rivers, evangelist; Joseph Sansing and Sue Avant, music; Rickey W. McKay, pastor.

**Hebron, Grenada:** April 20-25; O'Neal Butler, Hebron, Benton, evangelist; Bill Wilson, Grenada, music.

**Spring Hill (Marshall):** April 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; William E. Gamble, Slayden, speaker; Terry Robbins, music director; Billy Mitchell, pastor.

**Parkhill, Jackson:** April 20-23; Howard Benton, pastor, Eastside, Pearl, preaching; Danny Wells, minister of music, Van Winkle, Jackson, music; Sun. services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; weekday services, 7:30 nightly; James C. Edwards, pastor.

**Grandview, 900 S. Pearson, Rd., Pearl:** Apr. 20-25; 7 p.m., nightly; David Kendall, Huntsville, Ala., evangelist; Bob Coleman, Pearl, music; Wade Chappell, pastor; Lynn Weems, music director; Scott King, youth director.

**First, Calhoun City:** April 20-23 (begins Sunday evening); evening services, 7; weekday services, 7-7:30 a.m.; Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson, evangelist; Jim Keyser, music; Anthony Kay, pastor.

**Sapa, Eupora:** April 23-26; services, 7 each night; Jack Inmon, pastor, West Shady Grove, Eupora, evangelist; Paul Deaton, music evangelist; Paul Deaton, pastor.

**Pearson, Pearl:** Apr. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Randy Hales, evangelist; Bill Roberts, music; Wayne Long, pastor.

**Corinth (Leake):** Apr. 20-23; Oster R. Daniels, evangelist; James Griffith, pastor.

**Midway (Leake):** Apr. 24-27; James E. Griffith, evangelist; Oster R. Daniels, interim pastor.

**Brooksville Church, Brooksville:** Apr. 20-29; 7 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.; 10:30 a.m. Mon.-Thurs.; William B. Webb, Midway Church, Meridian, evangelist; Carlis Braswell, pastor.

**Lizana Church, Gulfport:** Apr. 20-23 (Sun.-Wed.); Larry Garner, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., evangelist; Jerry Nance, First Church, Gulfport, leading the music; 11 a.m. Sun. and 7 nightly; Gerald H. Walker, pastor.

## Off the Record

A young author asked Stephen Leacock what tricks of the trade he employed when he sat down to write. "No tricks," said the humorist. "I seat myself at a desk, wait until an idea occurs and then jot it down." You make writing seem so simple. "Writing is simple," replied Leacock. "It's the occurring that's difficult."

**Farmhaven, (Madison):** Apr. 20-25; dinner on grounds, April 20; evening services, Sun.-Fri., 7 p.m.; evangelist, Rob Sugg, missionary to Taiwan; music evangelist, Richard Lister, minister of music, First Church, Madison; Grant McElveen, pastor.

**First, Sledge:** Apr. 20-25; services at 11 a.m., and 6 p.m. Sun., and 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; preacher, Dennis Trull, pastor; musician, Mike Davis, music director at First Church, Charleston.

**Linwood, Union:** April 20-25; Fred McCoy, evangelist; Jerry Peagler, music; Barbara Jenkins, soloist; night services, 7; Johnny Collins, pastor; Jamie Meadow, music director.

**High Hill, Neshoba:** April 23-27; Van Hardin, preaching; Tony Kinton, directing the music; Paul H. Leber, Sr., pastor.

**Antioch, Brandon:** April 20-23; Tommy Anderson, evangelist; George Dukes, music; Larry Duncan, pastor.

**Lakeview, Leland:** April 20-25; evangelist, Jack Moore, pastor, First, Fisherville, Tenn.; music evangelist, Wayne Grothman, minister of music, White Sand, Prentiss; Paul Blanchard, pastor.

**Antioch, Columbus:** April 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon, 7 p.m.; Kenny Martin, student at Southern Seminary, evangelist; Charlie Martin, minister of music, Mt. Vernon, Columbus, music evangelist; Jimmy Harrington, pastor; Mac Pace, minister of music.

**Immanuel, Greenwood:** April 27-30; 7:30 p.m.; Larry Edwards, pastor, Mt. Olive (Carroll), evangelist; Gary and Linda Lewis, music and youth directors, Mt. Olive, music; Dennis McKay, pastor.

**Westview, Jackson:** Apr. 20-25; 7 each evening; Mon.-Fri., 12 noon with lunch; Glen Savell, pastor, Linden, Linden, Ala.; Steve Bishop, Westview, minister of music, music; Joe L. Hasson, pastor.

**Flora, Flora:** Apr. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; James Fancher, pastor, Monticello, evangelist; Al Fennell, minister of music, First, Pompano Beach, Fla., recorded 4 sacred albums, music evangelist.

**Ackerman (Choctaw):** Apr. 20-27; Sun., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; weekdays, 7 a.m., 7 p.m.; C. Cecil Randall, professor of evangelism, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; John and Beth Greene, New Orleans, music; John G. Brock, pastor; Laverne F. Pickett, Jr., minister of music.

**Parks (Tallahatchie):** Apr. 23-27; Kenneth Robertson, missionary, Senegal, evangelist; Joe Young, pastor.

**Concord (Yazoo):** Apr. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m., 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy R. Thomas, pastor, W. Monroe, La., evangelist; B. B. Neely, music; Tommy Bufkin, pastor.

**McLaurin Heights, Pearl:** Apr. 20-25; 7:30 nightly; Curtis L. Williams, pastor; Jerry Mixon, evangelist; Eugene Price, music director.

**Gaston, Booneville:** April 20-25; 10:30 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., Sunday; 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; Chuck Hampton, pastor, evangelist, noted that the revival will pertain to living the Christian life in all its fullness; Terry Hurt, music minister, music evangelist.

**Cherry Park, Clinton:** April 20-23; Sun., 7 p.m.; week night services, 7:30; David Cranford, speaker; Billy Causey, music director; Hollis Alderman, pastor.

**Chapel Hill (Hinds):** Apr. 20-23; Sunday morning, regular services; dinner on the ground; afternoon service; no Sunday night service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor, Main St., Mendenhall; Bobby Stubbs, music; S. W. Valentine, pastor.

**Hebron (Panola):** April 20-25; Kermit D. McGregor, Clinton, evangelist; Mrs. Wanda Billington, music evangelist; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week night services, 7:30; Living Waters, BSU ensemble from NWJC, will present a concert Sunday evening; Steve Jordan, pastor.

**Gunnison (Bolivar):** May 1-4; weekdays, 8 p.m.; regular Sunday services; Johnny Spencer, pastor, Duncan, evangelist; Billy Hale, music; Leo W. Timms, pastor.

**Harrisburg, Tupelo:** April 27-30; Barry Landrum, First, Pasadena, Tex., evangelist; Clint Nichols, music evangelist; Larry W. Fields, pastor.

**County Line (Attala):** Apr. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Martin Williams, pastor, evangelist; Morris Cockroft, music director; lunch, Sunday.

**First, Yazoo City:** Apr. 20-23; John Sullivan, pastor, Broadmoor, Shreveport, La., evangelist; R. L. and Beth Sigrest, music evangelists, Yazoo City, musicians; Sun., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; weekdays, Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m., 7 p.m.

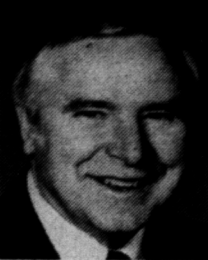
**Thomastown (Leake):** Apr. 20-23; Sun., regular services, dinner after morning service; evening services, 7:00 p.m.; Buddy Braddock, pastor, Buckatunna (Clarke) evangelist; Harry Daniels, Carthage, music; W. A. Troutman, pastor.



Ron Kurtz, minister to youth at First Church, Katy, Tex., leads music at LTC. Kurtz is a former staffer at First Church, Jackson.

## Calvary honors Tuten on 25th anniversary

Joe H. Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, was honored last month by his church on his 25th anniversary.



Tuten, Jackson, and John Reed Miller, retired pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson.

The day's activities included a morning reception, a morning celebration worship service, and a luncheon reception.

Program personalities for the evening service, March, 16 included Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College; Charles Myers, retired pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

Tuten came to Calvary after serving at Belle Chasse Church, Belle Chasse, La.; Calvary Church, New Orleans; and First Church, Biloxi.

He initiated a college student expense and mission project fund that totals \$750,000; led in an extensive renovation project at the church; and is a strong supporter of the ACTS Christian/television network.

Preacher for the morning service was retired seminary professor Frank Stagg. Jackson Mayor Dale Danks attended and proclaimed the day Joe H. Tuten Day.

Church members gave Mr. and Mrs. Tuten a 1986 Silver Fleetwood Cadillac. The evening service was videotaped and a copy presented to Tuten in a special commemorative album.

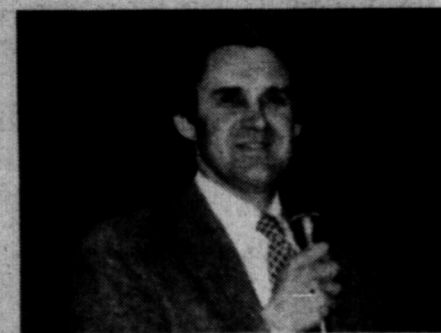
## Student leaders train



With temperatures in the 30s, car keys provided the special sound effects for a spring time rendition of "Jingle Bells" during the Gulfshore meeting at the Baptist Student Union's Leadership Training Conference. From left are LeAnn Griffin of Blue Mountain; Scott Valentine of Mississippi State; Jerry Merriman, state BSU director; and Eddie Cooper, pastor of First Church, Oxford. (Photos by Weaver McCracken)



Priority, a Mississippi College BSU ensemble offered a mini-concert



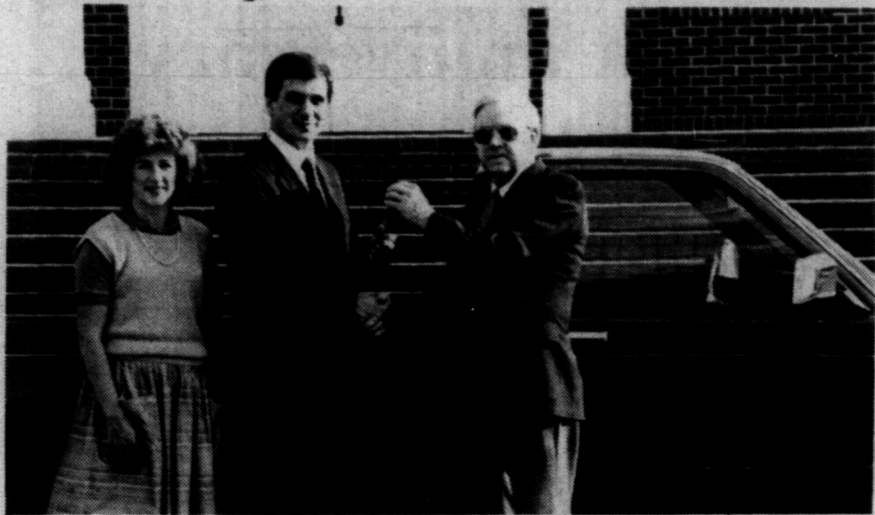
Eddie Cooper, pastor of First Church, Oxford, speaks on the topic "Faithful to the Bride," challenging students assess their commitment to Christ and his church.



Scott Valentine of MSU, left, passes the gavel of leadership to Gary Permenter of MSU who will serve as state BSU president for 1986-87.



## - Just for the Record -



Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, recently presented its pastor, Barry Corbett, and his wife, Denise, keys to a 1985 Chevrolet S-10 pick-up during Pastor Appreciation Week. Shown handing over the keys is Dale Clark, chairman of the deacons. Corbett has been pastor of the church for five years.



The Eddie Graves Crusader Chapter and the Van Williams Pioneer Chapter of First Church, Ripley held a jog-a-thon for home missions, March 8, at Tippah Lake.

The teams jogged a total of 166 miles and collected pledges and donations totaling \$1,009.

Kenny James is director of Baptist Men and John Britt is RA director. Jack B. Bennett is pastor.



Ackerman Church, Ackerman recently held a GA recognition service entitled "Telling The Good News."

Pictured, left to right, first row, are Aimee Lucas, Crystal Cartwright, Autumn Brooks, Merry Oswalt, Patrice Fulgham, and Kristi McLeon. Second row, Penny Wood, Amy Adams, Courtney Thomas, Kristin Oswalt, Dawn Murphy, Renee Hunt, and Penny Stacy. Third row, Dana Wood, Bridgett King and Sherrie Jenkins. The leaders are Rose Hunt, Roxanne Adams and Pat Fulgham.

CLINTON—A new master of science degree in applied sociology, with a concentration in marriage and family therapy, is being instituted at Mississippi College and classes will begin this fall.

## Names in the News

Aubrey Jones, pastor of Pine Grove Church, Clarke County, suffered a heart attack at church Sunday night, April 6, and was taken by ambulance to the Anderson Hospital in Meridian. On April 8, reported Grady Crowell, Clarke director of missions, he was "stable, free of pain, and vital signs were good."

Jimmy Williams and Jerry Myatt were recently ordained as deacons, by Shiloh Church, Corinth. Dwight Massengill, interim pastor, brought the ordination message and presented the certificates. Soggy Kennedy was also elected to serve as deacon, but had already been ordained.

## - Homecomings -

Gunnison Church, Gunnison: homecoming, 130th anniversary; May 25; fellowship, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 11-12 noon; dinner on ground; afternoon service, 1:30; Leo W. Timms, pastor.

## Woodland Hills follows Ephesians 3:20; celebrates "Miracle Day" results

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, celebrated "Miracle Day" on March 23, based on promises in Ephesians 3:20.

Sunday School attendance was 669, 19 above the goal of 650 set by the Sunday School council. And there were 713 in the morning worship services, including a separate service for the deaf and a total of ten additions, seven of which were professions of faith.

Said Tom Stephens, minister of

education and planner of the program, "I never lost faith that it could happen, although only 503 persons signed commitment cards."

Four weeks prior to the "Miracle Day" program, members pledged to make contacts with other members, unchurched, and unsaved persons. The first week — write letters; second week — phone calls; third — favors; and fourth — make visits.

Two other events included a church-

wide banquet and a revival for the deaf. Tom Rushing, pastor/misionary to the deaf/blind in Talladega, Ala., was preacher for the revival which included four professions of faith and one addition by letter. An all-time high attendance of 61 was reached in the deaf Sunday School departments, with 117 present at the morning worship service.

Bill Fuller is pastor of Woodland Hills Church.

## Staff Changes

Joseph Stewart Sorah has recently accepted the position of minister of youth and activities at First Church, Holly Springs.

A native of Tenn., Sorah goes from Calera, Ala. where he served as minister of education and youth at Calera Church.

Sorah's education includes a B.A. degree from Carson-Newman College; M.R.E. degree from New Orleans Seminary and A.A. degree from Cleveland State Community College.

A reception for Sorah and his wife, Teresa, was held, April 13.

Gary Strehlow has resigned his position as pastor of Beulah Church, Simpson Association and has accepted the pastorate of Immanuel Church, Fort Smith, Ark.

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we drop a bunch of clothes hangers. — (Margaret Brucker)

Lonnie Stewart, Jr. has recently been called as pastor of Long Cane Church in Gabbettville, Ga. Stewart is



Stewart March 23, 1986.

a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Patricia Flowers of Montgomery, Ala. Stewart was ordained into the gospel ministry

## No sabbath soccer

RAMAT GAN, Israel (EP) — The use of the national soccer stadium in Ramat Gan on the Sabbath would be an infringement of the status quo on religious matters, and therefore will not be allowed, Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres said.

## Names in the News

Milton Wheeler, dean of arts and sciences at William Carey College, has been elected president of the Mississippi Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

The Ida Dockery Owen Library of Yellowstone Baptist College was dedicated, March 27, in a special dedication service. The books, cassette tapes, periodicals and reference materials are available to students, faculty, and staff.

W. J. "Dub" Hughes, a Mississippian, presented Mrs. Ida Dockery Owen, and told how she came to be a volunteer in the library, giving her expertise, talents and time at Yellowstone College.

Curtis R. Ellis, a former president of Yellowstone College, now serving as director of area missions for Triangle and Hi-Line Associations in Montana, gave the dedication address. Ellis had been Mrs. Owen's pastor several years ago in Mississippi.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Badgett Dillard, executive vice president of Southern Seminary, died March 29 here, following a battle with cancer. He was 57. Dillard was on Southern seminary's administrative staff for more than three decades. He was named director of publicity in 1953.

He held four other seminary posts before he was named vice president of the business affairs in 1972. In 1982 the executive vice president title was added to his business responsibilities.

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He held four other seminary posts before he was named vice president for business affairs in 1972. In 1982 the executive vice president title was added to his business responsibilities.

Bob L. Watkins, pastor of Dumas Church, Dumas, recently received the doctor of divinity degree from The International Bible Institute and Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. He obtained the associate of arts degree from Southern Baptist College, the bachelor of arts degree from Blue Mountain College, and the master of Bible theology degree from International Bible Institute and Seminary. His former pastor, Roy Stinson, pastor of Gates Church, Gates, Tenn., presented him with his doctoral degree in a special Sunday morning worship service. The church honored Watkins and his family with a luncheon and presented him with a book for his library.

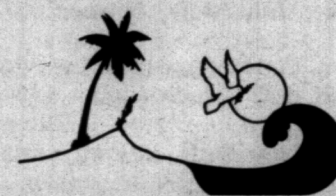
DELAND, Fla. (BP) — Stetson University trustees have named Executive Vice President H. Douglas Lee president-elect of the university. He will succeed President Pope A. Duncan, 65, June 1, 1987.

## Nurses to meet

The newly organized Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Mississippi will hold an informational meeting at 6 p.m. on May 1 in conjunction with the annual Medical Dental Fellowship banquet being held at First Baptist Church, Jackson, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ashley McCaleb, WMU office, Box 530, Jackson 39205, for reservation information.

## Journals needed

The Baptist Nursing Fellowship is seeking complete sets of current professional nursing journals for binding to send to missionary nurses, schools and hospital. Journals such as American Journal of Nursing, Nursing, R.N. Nursing Outlook which are less than five years old are requested (1980 and up). Please contact Mary Holyfield, Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, 968-1712, for further details.



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## Handbell festivals

Fourteen handbell choirs from 11 churches participated in the mass ringing that closed the North Festival of the State Handbell Festivals for 1986. Churches with single choirs were First, Aberdeen; Alta Woods, Jackson; First, Madison; First, Marks; First, Oxford; First, Pascagoula; First, Pontotoc; Harrisburg, Tupelo; and First, Horn Lake. In addition, Broadmoor, Jackson, had two choirs; and First, Starkville,

had three. The festival was held at First Church, Oxford. The clinician was Richard Joiner of the music faculty at Mississippi College. The judges were Doug Polk at Inglewood Church, Jackson, Tenn., and Jerry Talley of Oak Forest Church, Jackson. The 1986 festivals were held in memory of C. Truitt Roberts, minister of music at First Church, Starkville, who was one of the directors of the mass ringing

in 1985 and died shortly thereafter of a heart attack. The south festival was held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, April 11 and 12. The clinician was Cynthia Dobrinski of University United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. The judges were J. M. Wood, Broadmoor, Jackson; Slater Murphey, Fairview, Columbus; and Jim Stroud, Trinity, Lake Charles, La.

## 'It Is Well' remains favorite

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — "It is Well with My Soul" remains the favorite hymn of students at Southwestern Seminary here.

William J. Reynolds, associate professor of church music, polled students for the annual favorite hymn day in chapel March 26.

Seminary students, many of whom have made financial and career sacrifices to prepare for ministry, have chosen this hymn of commitment "for the past several years," Reynolds said. The hymn's words were written by Horatio Spafford in 1873 after his family drowned at sea.

Students' second through sixth choices this year were "Victory in Jesus," "Amazing Grace," "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "How Great Thou Art."

## Forum to focus on heritage

ATLANTA (BP) — "Baptist hallmarks" is expected by organizers to capture the attention of some 7,500 participants attending the SBC Forum June 9 in Atlanta, one day prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"The Hallmarks of Our Baptist Heritage" will be the theme for the meeting, which will begin at 1:15 p.m. in The Omni in downtown Atlanta,

said Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington, Texas, and chairman of the SBC Forum committee.

"At a time when all Southern Baptists are looking for a way to unity and peace in our convention, the Forum wants to sound the strong notes of our Baptist heritage," Wade said.

"There are some great truths that have made us one people across the

years," Wade added. "Among those have been our strong commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority of the Scripture, soul competency, mission outreach, evangelism, and Christian education."

"The Forum will give many Southern Baptists a place to hear those unifying themes of Baptist life fervently and effectively proclaimed," he said. "We hope messengers will take in the Forum as spiritual preparation for a great convention."

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City, will be master of ceremonies. Joe Morrell, minister of music at Woodmont Church, Nashville, will be music leader.

Speakers and their topics will include Norman Cavender, layman from Claxton, Ga., Baptists and Christian freedom; Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Baptists and the role of women; Bill Sherman, pastor of Woodmont Church, Nashville, Baptists and the doctrine of God.

Also Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University, Waco, Baptists and Christian education; Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Baptists and missions; and James Flamming, pastor, First Church, Richmond, The People of the Book.

Kenneth Chafin, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary, Louisville, is program chairman for the 1986 Forum. Henry Crouch, pastor, Providence Church, Charlotte, N.C., is finance chairman, and Pete Hill, pastor, First Church, Vero Beach, Fla., is publicity chairman.

The SBC Forum was initiated in 1984 when the Southern Baptist Convention met in Kansas City, Mo.

## Youth music festival winners announced

Keyboard, instrumental, vocal and conducting work comprised the State Four-Part Youth Music Festival, Feb. 22 at First Church, Vicksburg.

The festival, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department, attracted hundreds of young people from all over the state. Keyboard work was separated into

two components, piano, and organ.

The judges' trophy recipient for organ work was Jeff C. Clearman, Petal. Judges' trophy recipients for piano were Lorna Price Williams, McComb; and Susan Banes, Canton. Miss Banes has received this honor for three years' running. Also given for piano work were \$200 scholarships

to Miss Banes and to Wendy Prestridge, Osyka. Should a scholarship winner attend a Baptist college in the state, the money will be matched. The judges trophy is awarded in keyboard work for best overall presentation.

Instrumental performers receiving a rating of superior included Jimmy Kirk, Grenada; Michelle Perry, Grenada; and Mark Russell, Sumrall. And Mark Russell, also competing in the conducting part, rated superior.

And in the vocal part of the festival, rating superior were J. R. Walley, Ocean Springs; Dawn Henderson, Sumrall; Amy Hudson, Sumrall; and Melissa Knight, Ellisville.

Judges for the festival included John Hanbery of Mississippi College, who rated the conducting and instrumental parts; keyboard judges were Jennie Lou Breland and Jeff McLelland of Carey; G. Edward Ludlow and Terry McRoberts of Blue Mountain; and Janet Taylor and Ralph Taylor of MC.

Vocal part judges were Clark Adams and Nell Adams of Clarke; Josephine D'Arpa and Gene Winters of Carey; James Glass and John Hanbery of MC; Denise Riley of First Church, Pearl; Larry Smith of USM; Rita Sweatt of Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and Melanie Wakeland of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

Prior to the Four Part Festival, a series of 13 district keyboard festivals took place across the state to determine eligibility in the four part festival. There were a total of 730 participants, according to Dot Pray, MCB church music keyboard specialist, who coordinated the district festivals.

There were 272 Baptist churches represented and another 102 non-Baptist churches participating. The help (leaders, judges, recorders, runners) totaled 254 persons and there were 60 10th-12th graders who became eligible to participate in the four-part festival.



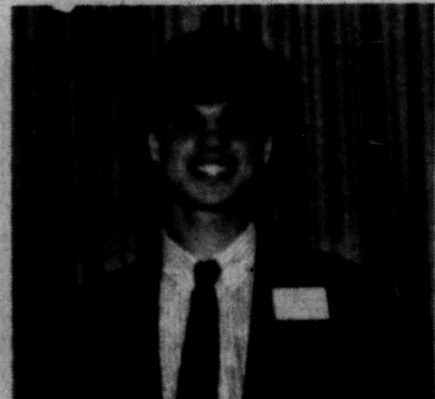
Jeff Clearman, Petal, was judges' trophy recipient for organ.



Lorna Price Williams, McComb, was a judges' trophy winner for piano, as was Susan Banes, Canton, pictured with Wendy Prestridge elsewhere.



Scholarship winners for piano were Wendy Prestridge, Osyka; and Susan Banes, Canton.



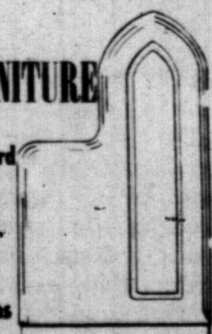
Mark Russell, Sumrall, was rated superior in conducting.



Vocal participants receiving superior ratings from left are Melissa Knight, Ellisville; J. R. Walley, Ocean Springs; Amy Hudson, Sumrall; and Dawn Henderson, Sumrall.

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# Baptist Record

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## The Holy Spirit and Jesus' birth

By Gus Merritt

Luke 1:5-56; 2:21-40

Focal passage: Luke 1:35-42; 2:25-32

The Holy Spirit or Spirit of God, as he is sometimes referred to, was particularly present in the creative acts described in the Bible. He was there in the creation as described in Genesis. He is instrumental in the regenerative process of the believer. The Holy Spirit is the principal agent in the resurrection of Jesus and the future resurrection of all believers (Romans 8:11). Then, here in the virgin birth of Jesus. The virgin birth of Jesus is the main emphasis to be covered here. Later lessons will deal with some of the other works of the Holy Spirit.

The greatest expectation of every devout Jewish mother was that she would be the mother of the Messiah.

No greater honor could ever come to a Jewish mother than to be selected by God to be the mother of the Messiah. Barrenness was the most disappointing plight of the Jewish wife because this meant she would not be accorded this honor.

In God's own time, the selection was made. Mary was chosen by God's sovereign grace to be so highly honored (Lk. 1:26-31). The great honor and favor bestowed upon Mary was in the fact that she would be the mother of Jesus. Though a devout young woman, Jesus is the reason for her special honor. She should not be given any special veneration as being herself supernatural. The very special birth of Jesus made it necessary for the Holy Spirit to be the agent for the virgin birth. Jesus could not have both earthly parents. Jesus is both God and

man. For him to have been born naturally would mean he would be deprived of deity and would not have been our Savior. The Holy Spirit caused the conception of Jesus, thereby God came in human flesh. Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Man. Jesus, God incarnate, is both just and the justifier.

The "overshadow" by the power of the "Highest" is like the Shekinah glory (Exodus 40:38) where the cloud represents the power and presence of God. Only through the power of God was the virgin birth of Jesus possible. Therefore, the virgin birth of Jesus should pose no problem for us. If God could form man from the "dust of the earth" in creating Adam and then create Eve from the rib of Adam, why should the virgin birth seem impossible to some? God can do anything he wants to do!

In order to confirm the miracle which Mary was to experience, the angel told her of the miracle conception experienced by her near kinsman, Elisabeth. Mary did not doubt the message by the angel but was given this news as a confirmation of God's ability (Lk. 1:36-37). Mary went to see her cousin to share with her the wonderful blessing accorded to both of them. Elisabeth lived some 97 miles to the south of Mary. When she arrived, she could see for herself the truth of the angel's announcement. When Mary arrived at her destination and saluted Elisabeth, the baby in Elisabeth's womb leaped. It is not unusual for a baby to leap in the womb but Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized that the leap of her child was because of the importance of the Child Mary was carrying.

Consider these important truths concerning the Holy Spirit as in the immediate passage. First, only the

Holy Spirit can reveal the true nature and character of Jesus. Peter learned this truth as recorded in Matthew 16:17. Second, the Holy Spirit leads us to worship Jesus as the Son of God.

Luke 2:25-32, where the Holy Spirit fills Simeon, is also another example of the Holy Spirit revealing truths concerning Jesus which could not be known any other way. The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon not only that Jesus is the promised Messiah, but the true mission of Jesus as Messiah. This mission was contrary to the popular Jewish concept of the Messiah. This passage also lets us know God rewards faithfulness to him.

The Holy Spirit's ministry in these passages is different from his ministry to the church in that he worked in special and isolated cases. After Pentecost, he will work more fully. The reason is found in John 7:9.

Gus Merritt is pastor Clarke Venable, Decatur.

## The coming of Ezra

By Billy McKay

Ezra 7:1-8:36

**Introduction.** Ezra 1-6 dealt with the return of Zerubbabel and about 50,000 exiles to Jerusalem from Babylon. Ezra 7-10 deals with the return of Ezra and about 2,000 exiles. Between chapter six and seven about 58 years had transpired. The words "now after these things" refer to the 58 year interval of time. In this period of time a sad spiritual decline had occurred. Ezra was moved to come back to Jerusalem with others to remedy this moral and spiritual condition.

Note the following aspects of the coming of Ezra: I. The preparation for his coming (7:1-10). Three things are noted in 7:10 which prepared Ezra for his coming to Jerusalem.

A. He prepared his heart (7:10a). Other passages which relate to the

preparation of the heart are 2 Chron. 12:14, 19:3, and 30:19.

B. He prepared his life (7:10b). The phrase "and to do it" shows Ezra did not preach truth he was not living. In Acts 1:1 Luke writes "of all Jesus began both to do and teach." Our Lord obeyed the same word which He taught.

C. He prepared his message (7:10c). The phrase "to teach" shows that Ezra not only believed the law of God, and practiced it but he also communicated it to others. Two parts of the law were mentioned.

1. The statutes (7:10). These statutes referred to the various applications of the laws of God.

2. The judgments (7:10). The judgments tell us that failure to obey will incur God's wrath.

II. The purpose of his coming (7:10,

25). There is a twofold purpose given for the coming of Ezra.

A. It pertained to the teaching ministry (7:10). In 7:6 Ezra is called a "ready scribe." The Hebrew word "ready" means "well versed" or "skilled" (cf. Psa. 45:1). The word "scribe" can be translated as "teacher." Ezra is called a scribe four times in Ezra (7:6, 11-12, 21: cf. v. 25). He is called a scribe six times in Nehemiah (cf. Neh. 8:1, 4, 9, 13; 12:26, 36). Being a Levite (7:11; 10:10, 16), Ezra was authorized to teach the law of God (cf. Lev. 10:11; Deut. 33:8, 10). According to Galatians 3:24, the law was a "schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ." The law of Moses (7:6) was given to reveal man's sin and to drive him to the temple where a proper sacrifice could be made which would atone for man's sin. The sacrifices in the temple were pictures of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, who alone could make a perfect sacrifice for

human sin.

B. It pertained to the temple ministry (7:27). Once a person is aware of his guilt and lostness he is then driven to seek the mercy and grace of God. This is why Ezra wanted to restore the temple with all of its messianic symbolism. Hearts of repentance and faith would bring revival and blessing into the land of Israel. The temple was a kind of passion play which dramatized the person and work of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. According to 7:25 all were to be taught the law of God. Judgment was to be executed on those who did not obey the law. In 7:25 the phrase "beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem" refers to the full restoration of the temple so that it could become the vehicle dramatizing the future redemptive work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

III. The providence in his coming (7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31). Six times in

Ezra the phrase "the hand of the Lord" is used. God was in the coming of Ezra. This phrase is also used twice in Nehemiah (cf. Neh. 2:8, 18). Look these references up to see the providential hand of God on Ezra and his work. Note especially how God gave Ezra 20 priests to assist him in the teaching and temple ministry (cf. 8:15-19); 220 Nethinims, who serve the Levites, were given (8:17, 20). The Nethinims were like our deacons who assisted the priests (cf. Acts 6:1-7).

IV. The protection in his coming (8:31-36). Ezra led the returning exiles to fast and pray as a spiritual exercise before they departed (cf. 8:21-23). The hand of God delivered them safely to Jerusalem (8:31).

Conclusion. God calls us to prepare our own lives that we, like Ezra, can be spiritual leaders within the life of the church.

Billy McKay is pastor, First, Belzoni.

## Focusing on Christ

By Peter McLeod

Colossians 3:1-11

An old hymn focuses on the "sweet by-and-by," emphasizing the future rather than the present. It sounds good but it's out-of-step with today's world. We are, for the most part, a generation of people who are more interested in the present than in the past or the future. We're tied into the "now."

This causes strains at times, even within families. A college student was having a terrible row with his mother because he had rejected the family's viewpoint on a faith-related matter. Finally, in sheer desperations he put his arm around her shoulders and said, "Don't worry, Mom. Dire Straits still love you!"

The poor mother had no idea who Dire Straits might be—and that's the point of the story. Her son was meeting life (whether rightly or wrongly) from a whole new perspective and that's exactly what the apostle Paul is advocating in this week's lesson—that we, as believers, must focus our living from a new direction.

Letting go of the past (vs. 1-4)

In these verses, Paul reminds the Colossians that they no longer "live there anymore." They have a new address and must adjust their living to a new cultural and ethical demand. They have been "made alive again" by Christ Jesus and that commands a new way of living and thinking.

At first glance, it might appear that Paul is calling for believers to follow a "sweet by-and-by" lifestyle. To fully grasp his intent, however, we must look again at Col. 2:11-12, where he describes the difference between believer's baptism and ritual circumcision. Paul's concept of "being raised with Christ," is a word picture of what happens when a person accepts Christ as Lord and then demonstrates that faith through believer's baptism. He has "died" to his old self and been "resurrected" to a new way of living in Christ. Because of this, his focus has been changed. He lives in the world but from a whole new perspective. His values are of the kingdom and not of the world and, most important of all, he becomes an imitator of

Christ.

Believe and behave (vs. 5-10)

A seminary professor asked a class how they would explain salvation to a poor, illiterate child. One student responded with what he thought was an excellent answer.

"I'd buy some groceries and take them to the child and say, 'I bought these for you. All you have to do is take them—they're free. I'm giving them to you because I love you.' And then," he continued, "I'd relate that to God's love and the plan of salvation."

"You'd be wrong!" said the professor. "You should take those groceries to the child and say, 'I bought these for you and you can have them. All you have to do is take them. But, if you do, I want you to know one thing—the moment you accept, you become my child. You go where I tell you to go, do what I tell you to do and be what I want you to be. I paid for them and when you take them, you belong to me.' That's salvation, my friends," he ended, "and that's what we need to tell the world. It cost God his Son and demands a new life from us."

The professor was right and Paul underscores this truth in these verses.

As believers, we have no options—we must act, think, speak and be people of higher values than those of the world, for we were made free at a terrible cost.

In the '70s it was popular to talk about situational ethics and "living by the law of love." That's true to a point, but we must also live by moral and ethical standards which go beyond our desires or the letter of the law. We must see people as being of ultimate value in God's sight and behave accordingly. Only then can we hope to attain the kind of community that Paul talks of next.

The third race (v. 11)

At an evangelistic meeting, one of the first to step forward was a young man with long hair, beard, jeans, t-shirt and no shoes. Raising both arms, he gave the "V" sign for peace with one hand and the "one way" sign for Christ with the other. Tiring, his arms drooped until an elderly black preacher stepped forward, put his own arms under the boys' and held them up until the service ended. A beautiful symbol of what Paul is stating here. All barriers are destroyed when "Christ is all, and is in all."

An early church critic called Chris-

tians a "third race." He was right, for when we are focused on Christ, when we live as he desires, we are whole new beings—a whole new race of people—through the power of his Spirit in us.

McLeod is pastor, 1st, Hattiesburg.

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